

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199268
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02 /038 R

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STATE EURSOV JCOLBERT
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-----127453 081321Z /45

R 072302Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP,UR

SUBJECT: ARCTIC OIL AND GAS SEMINAR EXHIBIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 17231, (B) MOSCOW 16482

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF (A) AND (B), COMMERCE/STATE HAVE GIVEN MATTER MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT EMBASSY'S POSITION THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO PROCEED WITH EVENT UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, WE PREFER TO POSTPONE THE SUBJECT EVENT INDEFINITELY RATHER THAN ISSUE AN OUTRIGHT CANCELLATION AT THIS TIME. INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SEMINAR WOULD RETAIN OPTION OF RESCHEDULING EVENT UNDER MORE PROPITIOUS CONDITIONS.

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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANCELLATION WOULD FURTHER FRUSTRATE THE U.S. OIL SUPPLY INDUSTRY WHICH HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS EVENT, AND WHICH IS ALREADY DISTRESSED BY THE IMPOSITION OF EXPORT CONTROLS. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH CANCELLATION COULD DISRUPT AND WEAKEN FUTURE TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, SINCE THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT COULD BE DEEMED

BY AMERICAN COMPANIES TO BE UNRELIABLE. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE LIKELY TO INTERPRET THIS ACTION AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF HALF-HEARTED INTEREST IN TRADING WITH THEM.

AS EMBASSY AWARE, U.S. PROMOTES EXPORT OF MANY PRODUCTS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO VALIDATED LICENSE REQUIREMENT. WE DO NOT WISH OUR ACTIONS TO GIVE RISE TO INFERENCE THAT OIL EQUIPMENT IS EMBARGOED. THE FINALITY OF A "CANCELLATION" WOULD SIMPLY UNDERSCORE ADVERSE IMPRESSIONS.

3. USDOC/BEWT WILL ADVISE PARTICIPANTS OF INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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